

- b) establish a connection to the database through the communications interface; and
- c) communicate the time-of-day information stored in the memory to the database so that the supplemental information associated with the broadcast may be identified and provided to the user.

93. The system of claim 92, wherein:

the database stores supplemental information about a radio or TV broadcast as a function of the time of day and the date;

the clock in the user-operable device outputs data and time information; and

the date and time are communicated to the database to identify the supplemental information to be provided to the user.

94. The system of claim 92, wherein:

the database stores supplemental information about a radio or TV broadcast as a function of the time of day and station identification information;

the user-operable device further includes a broadcast station tuner for deriving station identification; and

the station identification information is communicated to the database along with the time of day to identify the supplemental information to be provided to the user.

95. The system of claim 92, wherein the memory is removable from the remainder of the device for transport to a different location for communicating the time-of-day information to the database.

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96. The system of claim 92, wherein the device forms part of a telephone.

97. The system of claim 92, further including a database remote from the user for storing a plurality of musical selections, and wherein the supplemental information relates to at least some of the selections.

98. The system of claim 97, wherein:  
the user device includes a display and means for playing a musical selection; and  
the controller is further operative to cause the downloading of a musical selection from the database to the device enabling the user to listen to the downloaded musical selection and view the auxiliary information about the selection on the display.

99. The apparatus of claim 98, wherein the supplemental information includes the name of the musical selection and one or more performers of the selection.

100. The system of claim 98, wherein the user device further includes a memory for storing one or more of the musical selections.

101. The system of claim 98, wherein the user device further includes a memory for storing the auxiliary information.

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102. The system of claim 92, wherein the communications interface includes a wireless connection to a telephone network, and the user-operable device is a handheld, portable, self-powered device.

103. The system of claim 92, wherein the database further includes means for storing information communicated from the user, and the controller performs the following additional functions:

store information identifying the user; and communicate the user identification information to the database, where it is stored along with the user's request for supplemental information.

104. The system of claim 103, further including data processor means for analyzing user data stored in the database to determine the number of user requests for particular supplemental information.

105. The system of claim 94, wherein the station identification includes indicia representing the station call letters.

106. The system of claim 92, wherein the user device includes a display, and the controller performs the user-controlled functions of recalling from memory the data stored in it, and displaying, sorting and selecting the data.

107. The system of claim 92, further includes processor means for erasing from the device memory stored data in response to a request from the user or from the database.

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108. The system of claim 92, wherein the database further includes a clock outputting the time-of-day, and the controller includes means for communicating the time-of-day information from the database clock to the user-operable device clock.

109. The system of claim 92, wherein the supplemental information may include a copy of the broadcast itself and may be in the form of audio, video or text.

110. The system of claim 92, wherein the supplemental information includes the price of a product or service, and may further include the availability of a product at a particular location.

111. Apparatus enabling a music listener to receive a particular musical selection and auxiliary information about that selection, comprising:

a database storing a plurality of musical selections, including auxiliary information relating to at least some of the selections;

communication means for downloading a musical selection from the database along with auxiliary information about the musical selection in response to a request from a user at a location remote from the database; and

a device enabling the user to listen to the downloaded musical selection and view the auxiliary information about the selection.

112. The apparatus of claim 111, wherein the auxiliary information includes the name of the

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musical selection and one or more performers of the selection.

113. The apparatus of claim 112, wherein the device is a portable device having a display to view the auxiliary information in textual form.

114. The apparatus of claim 111, wherein the device includes memory means for storing the musical selection.

115. The apparatus of claim 112, wherein the device includes memory means for storing the auxiliary information.

116. The apparatus of claim 113, wherein the device is handheld and self-powered, and the communication means includes a wireless connection to a telephone network.

117. A method of obtaining supplemental information about a radio or TV broadcast from a remote database, comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic device including a user control, a memory, a communications interface, and a clock outputting time-of-day information;

activating the user control in response to a radio or TV broadcast, thereby storing the time-of-day information from the clock in the memory;

establishing a connection to the remote database through the communications interface;

communicating the time-of-day information stored in the memory to the remote database;

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correlating the time-of-day information to the broadcast to identify supplemental information associated with the broadcast; and

providing the supplemental information to the user.

118. The method of claim 117, wherein:

the electronic device is a hand-held, portable electronic device; and

the user control is a pushbutton.

119. The method of claim 118, wherein the broadcast includes a radio or TV program, and the supplemental information is associated with the program.

120. The method of claim 118, wherein the broadcast includes a radio or TV advertisement, and the supplemental information is associated with the advertisement.

121. The method of claim 118, wherein the program includes a musical selection, and the supplemental information is associated with the musical selection.

122. The method of claim 118, further including the steps of:  
communicating the date along with the time-of-day information to the remote database; and  
correlating the date and time-of-day information to the broadcast to identify supplemental information associated with the broadcast.

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123. The method of claim 118, wherein the device further includes a station tuner, and the method further includes the steps of:

tuning the device to a particular station to receive the broadcast;

deriving station identification information about the broadcast through the tuner;

communicating the station identification information along with the time-of-day information to the remote database; and

correlating the station identification and time-of-day information to the broadcast to identify supplemental information associated with the broadcast.

124. The method of claim 117, wherein the step of providing the supplemental information to the user includes providing the information in print form.

125. The method of claim 117, wherein the step of establishing a connection to the remote database through the communications interface includes establishing a telephone connection.

126. The method of claim 125, wherein the step of providing the supplemental information to the user includes providing the information through the telephone connection.

127. The method of claim 117, wherein the auxiliary information is in the form of text, audio, or video information, the electronic device further includes a display, and means for reproducing audio or video information, and the step of providing the supplemental information to the user includes the step of displaying the text information, and playing the audio or video information.

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128. The method of claim 117, wherein the memory in the device is also used to store the supplemental information.

129. The method of claim 117, wherein the step of establishing a connection includes the step of wirelessly connecting the device to a telephone network.

130. The method of claim 117, wherein the database further includes means for storing information communicated from the user, and further including the following steps:

storing in the device information identifying the user;

communicating the user identification information to the database; and

storing in the database the identification along with the user's request for supplemental information.

131. The method of claim 130, further including data processor means coupled to the database, and the additional step of:

analyzing user data stored in the database to determine the number of user requests for particular supplemental information.

132. The method of claim 123, wherein the station identification includes indicia representing the station call letters.

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133. The method of claim 117, wherein the user device includes a display, and including the steps of:

recalling from memory the data stored in it; and

displaying, sorting and selecting the data.

134. The method of claim 117, further including the step of:

erasing from the device memory stored data in response to a request from the user or from the database.

135. The method of claim 117, wherein the database further includes a clock outputting the time-of-day, and further including the step of:

communicating the time-of-day information from the database clock to the user-operable device clock.

136. The method of claim 117, wherein the supplemental information may include a copy of the broadcast itself and may be in the form of audio, video or text.

137. The method of claim 117, wherein the supplemental information includes the price of a product or service, and may further include the availability of a product at a particular location.

138. A method enabling a music listener to receive a particular musical selection and auxiliary information about that selection, comprising the steps of:

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providing a database storing a plurality of musical selections, including auxiliary information relating to at least some of selections;

receiving a request to download one of the musical selections to a user at a location remote from the database; and

communicating the musical selection and the auxiliary information relating to the downloaded selection to the user.

139. The method of claim 138, wherein the auxiliary information includes the name of the musical selection and one or more performers of the selection.

140. The method of claim 138, further including the steps of:  
providing a user with a musical storage and replay device including a display; and  
communicating the musical selection and auxiliary information to the device enabling the user to listen to the musical selection through the device and view the auxiliary information on the display.

141. The method of claim 140, including the step of providing the user with a portable musical storage and replay device.

142. The method of claim 138, wherein the step of downloading the musical selection occurs concurrent with the step of receiving the auxiliary information about the selection.

143. The method of claim 138, wherein the step of communicating includes the step of

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wirelessly communicating over a telephone network.

144. A system for providing supplemental information to a user relating to items of interest to the user, comprising:

a database for storing supplemental information about an item as a function of an item identification indicium;

a user-operable device located remotely from the database, the device including control means for inputting of item identification indicia, a memory, a communications interface, and a controller operative to perform the following functions:

- a) store the indicia input using the control means in memory;
- b) establish a connection to the database through the communications interface; and
- c) communicate the indicia stored in the memory to the database so that the supplemental information associated with the item is identified and provided to the user.

145. The system of claim 144, wherein:

the database stores supplemental information about an item as a function of the item indicia and as a function of the provider of the item;

the user-operable device further includes means for inputting item provider identification; and the provider identification information is communicated to the database along with the item indicia to identify the supplemental information to be provided to the user.

146. The system of claim 144, wherein the device forms part of a telephone.

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147. The system of claim 144, wherein the user device further includes a memory for storing the supplemental information.

148. The system of claim 144, wherein the communications interface includes a wireless connection to a telephone network, and the user-operable device is a handheld, portable, self-powered device.

149. The system of claim 144, wherein the database further includes means for storing information communicated from the user, and the controller performs the following additional functions:

store information identifying the user; and communicate the user identification information to the database, where it is stored and used to provide the user with the supplemental information.

150. The system of claim 144, further including data processor means for analyzing user data stored in the database to determine the number of user requests for particular supplemental information.

151. The system of claim 144, wherein the supplemental information may include a copy of the item itself and may be in the form of audio, video or text.

152. The system of claim 144, wherein the supplemental information includes the price of a product or service, and may further include the availability of a product at a particular location.

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153. A method of obtaining supplemental information relating to items from a remote database, comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic device including control means for inputting of item identification indicia , a memory, and a communications interface;

activating the control means to store the indicia in the memory;

establishing a connection to the remote database through the communications interface;

communicating the indicia stored in the memory to the remote database;

correlating the indicia information to the item to identify supplemental information associated with the item; and

providing the supplemental information to the user.

154. The method of claim 153, wherein:

the electronic device is a hand-held, portable electronic device; and the step of establishing a connection to the remote database includes using the Internet.

155. The method of claim 153, wherein the device further includes means for inputting item provider identification information, and the method further includes the steps of:

deriving from the item the item and the provider identification indicia;

communicating the item and provider identification information to the remote database; and

correlating in the database the item and provider identification information to the item to identify supplemental information associated with the item.

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156. The method of claim 153, wherein the step of establishing a connection to the remote database through the communications interface includes establishing a telephone connection.

157. The method of claim 153, wherein the step of providing the supplemental information to the user includes providing the information through the telephone connection.

158. The method of claim 153, wherein the auxiliary information is in the form of text, audio, or video information, the electronic device further includes a display, and means for reproducing audio or video information, and the step of providing the supplemental information to the user includes the step of displaying the text information, and playing the audio or video information.

159. The method of claim 153, wherein the step of establishing a connection includes the step of wirelessly connecting the device to a telephone network.

160. The method of claim 117, wherein the database further includes means for storing information communicated from the user, and further including the following steps:

storing in the device information identifying the user;

communicating the user identification information to the database; and

storing in the database the identification and using it to provide the user with the supplemental information.

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161. The method of claim 160, further including data processor means coupled to the database, and the additional step of:

analyzing user data stored in the database to determine the number of user requests for particular supplemental information.

162. The method of claim 153, wherein the user device includes a display, and including the steps of:

recalling from memory the data stored in it; and

displaying, sorting and selecting the data.

163. The method of claim 153, further including the step of:  
erasing from the device memory stored data in response to a request from the user or from the database.

164. The method of claim 153, wherein the supplemental information may include a copy of the item itself and may be in the form of audio, video or text.

165. The method of claim 153, wherein the supplemental information includes the price of a product or service, and may further include the availability of a product at a particular location.--

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